Drawing Amendments

FIGS. 4A and 4B include minor typographical errors. Applicant submits herewith a marked-up drawing sheet showing the changes to FIGS. 4A and 4B (**Exhibit A**), and proposed replacement drawing sheets (**Exhibit B**).

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-36 are considered in the Office action.

Claims 9-21 and 26-36 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species.

Claims 1-8 and 22-25 have been objected to based on various informalities.

Claims 1-5, 8 and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ogawa et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,517,189 ("Ogawa").

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ogawa in view of Cowger et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,386,692 ("Cowger").

Reply to Claim Objections

Claims 1-8 and 22-25 have been objected to because "there is no first ink container, so it does not make sense to have a second ink container without having a first ink container." Applicant has amended the claims to remove the reference to the secondary ink container. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Claims 1-8 and 22-25 also have been objected to because "it is not clear how large is enough to hold a sufficient amount of ink for a purge operation of at least about seven seconds." Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly describe and distinctly claim the invention. In particular, amended independent claim 1 recites a printer including an ink container that includes an inlet through which the ink container receives ink, and that is adapted to hold a sufficient amount of ink to purge a printhead for about seven seconds without the ink level in the ink container dropping below the inlet. Independent claim 22 recites a method of purging a print head in a printing system that includes an ink container that includes an inlet through which the ink container receives ink, wherein the method includes pressurizing the ink container with a pressure source to purge the print head continuously for about seven seconds without causing the ink level in the ink container to drop below the inlet. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are clear, and accordingly respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the clarity objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 8 and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ogawa, and claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ogawa in view of Cowger.

Independent claim 1 recites a printer including an ink container in fluid communication with a printhead, the ink container having an inlet through which the ink container receives ink, and a pressure source that provides a pressure to the ink container during a purging operation, wherein the ink container is adapted to hold a sufficient amount of ink to purge the printhead for about seven seconds without the ink level in the ink container dropping below the inlet. Independent claim 22 recites a method of purging a print head in a printing system that includes an ink container that includes an inlet through which the ink container receives ink and that is in fluid communication with the print head, the method including supplying ink from the ink container to the print head, and pressurizing the ink container with a pressure source to purge the print head continuously for about seven seconds without causing the ink level in the ink container to drop below the inlet. Neither of the cited references describe or suggest the claimed invention.

Ogawa describes an ink jet device that includes a print head 1 coupled via a deformable duct 12 and pressure pump 11 to a main ink tank 10. (Col. 4, lines 6-20). Print head 1 includes a plurality of nozzles 2, a common ink chamber 7 and a sub ink tank 9, which includes an ink pool chamber 32 and an ink absorbing chamber 34. (Col. 4, lines 23-24 and 44-47). A switching valve 50 couples ink pool chamber 32 to one end of common ink chamber 7, and a switching valve 40 couples ink absorbing chamber 34 or main ink tank 10 to a second end the common ink chamber 7. (Col. 4, lines 51-56; Col. 5, lines 11-22). A purging mechanism 20 is provided in a purging position outside of a printing region, and includes a cap 21, a suction pump 22 and a purge tank 25. (Col. 4, lines 20-22; Col. 5, lines 23-26). During a purge operation, switching valve 40 couples main ink tank 10 to common ink chamber 7, cap 21 covers nozzles 2, and pressure pump 11 and suction pump 22 are driven to supply ink from main ink tank 10 to nozzles 2 through common ink chamber 7, and purging mechanism 20 collects the ink in nozzles 2 into purge tank 25. (Col. 8, lines 29-45).

Ogawa does not, however, describe or suggest apparatus or methods wherein an ink container is adapted to hold a sufficient amount of ink to purge a printhead for about seven seconds without the ink level in the ink container dropping below an inlet. Indeed, Ogawa does not describe or suggest anything regarding purging a printhead for about seven seconds. Moreover, Ogawa does not describe or suggest anything about an ink container being adapted to hold a sufficient amount of ink to purge a printhead without the ink level in the ink container dropping below an inlet. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that §103 rejections of independent claims 1 and 22 should be withdrawn. Further, because claims 2-8 and 23-25 depend from either of claims 1or 22, applicant respectfully submits that §103 rejections of claims 2-8 and 23-25 should be withdrawn..

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, applicant submits that this application, including claims 1-8 and 22-25, is allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner allow this application.

Respectfully submitted,

James Trosino
Registration No. 39,862
Attorney for Applicant

OIPE IAP95
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EXHIBIT A

OIPE IAP55
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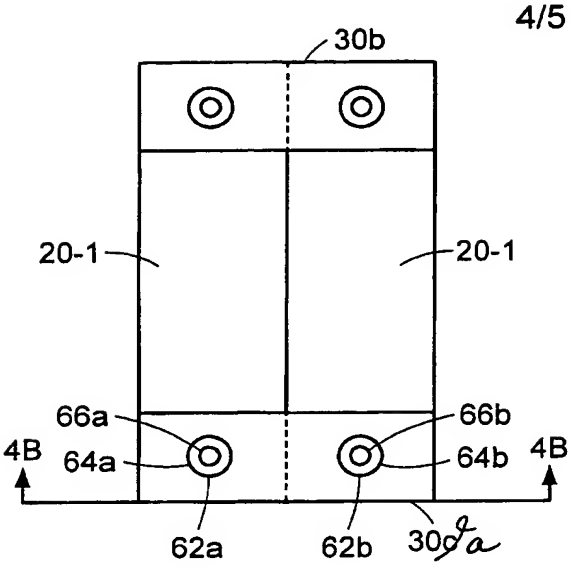

FIG. 4A

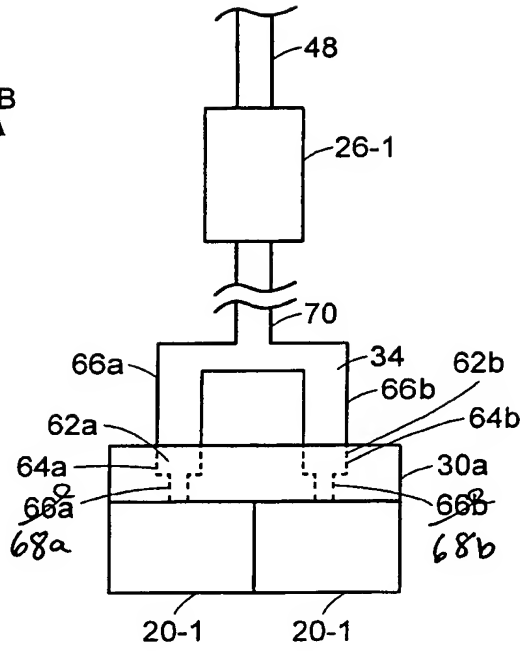

FIG. 4B

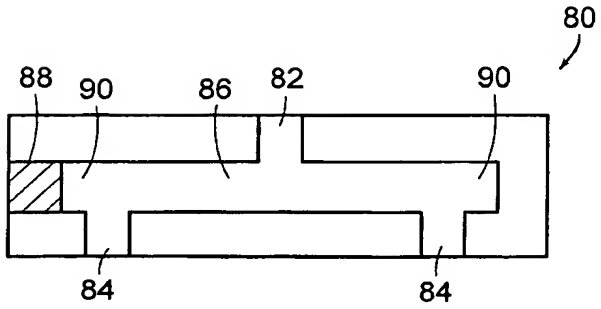

FIG. 5
PRIOR ART

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EXHIBIT B